

REMARKS

Entry of this Communication in response to the Office Action dated May 20, 2004 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 10, 30, 33, and 37 are objected to. Claims 30, 33, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 30, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 31, 32, 34, 35, and 38 are allowed.

For the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in the claims includes features which are not anticipated by the cited reference. Reconsideration is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 30, 33, and 37 are objected to. Claims 30, 33, and 37 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the "means" has been removed from each of these claims and replaced with "arm" for proper antecedent basis from the independent claims from which each of these claims depends.

In view of these amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10, 30, 33, and 37 particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants' regard as the invention.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 30, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Marshall.

The Examiner contends that Marshall discloses a quick connector having an electrically conductive connector housing 10, an endform 4, and an electrically conductive contact member W mounted in the housing and contacting the male endform to electrically connect the male endform and the quick connector housing. The Examiner further contends that the contact member includes a first portion 40 mounted in the quick connector housing bore and in contact with the housing and an arm/means 46 extending from the first portion for passage through an open end of a bore in the endform into contact with an inner surface of the endform.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is overlooking a feature of Applicants' invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 15 which is lacking in Marshall. In both claims 1 and 15, the first portion of the contact member is disposed in contact with the housing.

Conversely, in Marshall, the contact member W has lobes which are in contact with the radially outward extending flanges of a ferrule fixed on one end of a tube. The ferrule thus is part of the tube. The housing 10 is mounted over the ferrules on both tubes as well as over a split collar 36 which has end flanges engaged with the flanges on the ferrules. It is submitted that the contact member W in Marshall is disposed only in contact with the tube and not the housing 10.

Thus, Marshall teaches only tube to tube contact and not endform or tube to housing contact as in Applicants' invention defined in claims 1 and 15 and the claims depending respectively therefrom.

Marshall is devoid of any teaching or suggestion of disposing the contact member in a bore in a housing in contact with the housing, with a portion of the contact member contacting an endform inserted into the bore in the housing to establish electrical contact between the housing and the endform.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in claims 1, 4, 10, 11, 13, 15, 30, 36, and 37 includes features which are not anticipated by Marshall.

Claims 7 and 33 have been amended to independent form thereby placing them in allowable form as indicated by the Examiner.

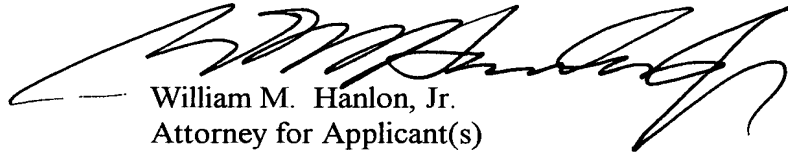
In conclusion, for the reasons sent for above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in the rejected claims includes features which are not anticipated by the cited reference. As such, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance; a notice of which is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action dated May 20, 2004

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Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE, WOOD
& HELMHOLDT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. M. Hanlon, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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